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UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. ANALYTICAL PRESENTATION OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Promotion of the acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law

2. Assistance and technical advice to States to facilitate their participation in the process of multilateral treaty-making

24 bis. The Environmental Law Programme (ELP) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which participated in the negotiation process for the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, has also been monitoring and contributing to the follow-up process through organizing a workshop and providing inputs to documents on access to genetic resources and preparation of a concept paper on marine biodiversity. Input was also provided to the implementation and monitoring of other global conventions and action plans, such as: the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1995 Desertification Convention, the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change, several instruments administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Bern Convention and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement. A contribution was also made to the identification of principles of international law for sustainable development.

C. Encouragement of the progressive development of international law and its codification

43 bis. The International Council of Environmental Law (ICEL), in cooperation with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has continued its participation in the preparation of a draft instrument designed to improve the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict. ICEL also reported that the European Council for Environmental Law (CEDE) had transmitted to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) draft articles for a Convention on Information, Participation and Means of Recourse with respect to the Implementation of Treaties Relating to the Environment.

45 bis. ELP contributed a paper to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, held during the inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will be published in 1996; submitted comments to the Chair of the Working Group of Legal Experts regarding elements of a possible Liability Annex to the Antarctic Treaty; in cooperation with ICEL, elaborated the first draft of a treaty designed to strengthen the protection of areas of special natural and cultural importance during times of armed conflict; provided various inputs to the second Ministerial Conference on Environment in Europe, held at Sofia; actively participated in the negotiations for the Protocols adopted under the Alpine Convention; contributed to drafting the text of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds and to the relevant Action Plan; contributed to the current debate on trade and environment and to various

activities of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other relevant institutions and programmes.

D. Encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law

2. Promotion of the teaching of international law for students and teachers at schools and at higher education levels and international cooperation for that purpose

54 bis. ELP and the National University of Singapore, assisted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Asian Development Bank, have collaborated towards developing a regional environmental law training programme for the Asia-Pacific region. In 1995, an emphasis was made on creating curricula for a series of courses to train lecturers in the basics of environmental law.

3. Organization of and participation in international and regional seminars and symposia for experts on international law

54 ter. Argentina reported that, in the context of the Decade and with the support of the national committee to follow up the Programme of the Decade, numerous congresses and seminars were held, among them: the seminar on dispute settlement and institutional means of conflict resolution in the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR), organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Buenos Aires, November 1995; the seminar on regional integration and MERCOSUR, given at the University of Santiago de Compostela from 15 January to 8 March 1996 by Dr. Calixto A. Armas Barea; the meeting to commemorate the work of the Argentine International Law Association in the Faculty of Law of Rosario National University on 30 March 1996; the seminar on the United Nations for journalism students, given at the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires on 6 May 1996; the courses on the law of treaties, the European Community, the law of the sea and the interdisciplinary approach to method in international public law (University of Córdoba); the master's degree in international public law (University of Córdoba); the seminar on the application of international humanitarian law in armed conflicts, organized by the International Law Department of the Universidad Austral and the International Committee of the Red Cross; the regional conference on integration held in Salta by the Argentine International Law Association and a number of local institutions, 27 to 29 June 1996; the seminar on "Recourse by States to jurisdictional solution of their disputes: some current and practical aspects", given by Professor Daniel Bardonnet in the Department of International Law of the Universidad Austral on 26 August 1996; the regional conference on international law of the Argentine International Law Association on "The provinces and municipalities and MERCOSUR", 29 and 30 August 1996; the round table of the Argentine Section of the Hispano-Luso-American Institute of International Law on the topics "Ibero-America and its influence in the international community" and "Universalism and regionalism of human rights: the world of international organizations", on 6 September 1996;

the conference on "Maritime interests and national defence" organized by the University of Buenos Aires and the School of Naval Warfare in September 1996, and the academic session with the participation of Director of the International Fund for Compensation for World Pollution Damage, Mr. Hans Jacobsson, and a lecture by the President of the National Academy of Law, Dr. José D. Ray, on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions of 1969 and 1972 and the protocols of 1992 on liability for oil pollution damage and the establishment of an international compensation fund, Buenos Aires, 10 September 1996. Argentina further indicated that, since the establishment of the national committee in 1993, four main working groups and three special working groups have been in operation. The four main groups are dealing with the four main objectives of the Decade, and the three special groups with the relationships between domestic law and international law, immunity from jurisdiction, and relationships between international public law and international private law. In addition, the following studies are being conducted: (a) "International law requirements of the common market of the South and techniques for implementing them", in the Research Council of the National University of Rosario, Director Dr. Calixto A. Armas Barea; (b) in the Argentine Council for International Relations: draft agreement on the conservation of living marine resources in the South Atlantic: the delimitation of the continental shelf; the provinces and international treaties; the international criminal court; and the solution of disputes in the law of the sea; and (c) in the Etcheverry Foundation for Research and International Studies: model law on electronic commerce of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), headed by Dr. Ana Isabel Piaggi de Vanossi. In addition, an essay contest on international humanitarian law was held, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross from April to September 1996. The Dr. José Maria Ruda Prize of the Committee for the United Nations Decade of International Law was awarded to Dr. Anahí Priotti, of the National University of Rosario. The announcement of the competition was addressed to researchers, university teachers and specialists in international relations or international law of Argentine nationality and under the age of 35. The subject of the essay was "Establishment of an international criminal court to try international crimes".

64 bis. ICEL continued to contribute to various conferences and negotiations within the United Nations system and, in particular, to the third and fourth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and to the drafting of a convention for access to public information and participation in the decision-making process.

5. Publication of the practice of States and international and regional organizations in the field of international law

77 bis. ICEL and the Environmental Law Centre continued to maintain what may be the world's most extensive collection of documents on environmental law and policy. Over 120,000 references to such documents have been entered into the computerized data bank ELIS (Environmental Law Information System), which in 1995 conducted 344 requests for database searches on specific topics in response to external requests, many of which came from the United Nations or its specialized agencies. ELP made a subset of its database on treaties available

on-line, with the assistance of the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network.

6. Publication by States and international organizations of international legal instruments and legal studies

83 bis. ICEL continued to issue its various publications on current developments in international environmental law and policy. Thus, in particular, six issues of the journal Environmental policy and law were published in 1995, and a loose-leaf collection entitled International environmental law: multilateral treaties, published in cooperation with the IUCN Environmental Law Centre, comprised eight volumes, containing over 340 instruments in English, French and German. In addition to publishing another loose-leaf collection, International environmental soft law, ICEL has also taken over publication of International protection of the environment, modified since 1995 under the title Conservation in sustainable development and containing the decisions and action plans that implement Agenda 21.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELEVANT TO THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ITS CODIFICATION

B. The law relating to disarmament

100 bis. A Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 September 1996 and was opened for signature on 24 September 1996.